

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method which enables a user to prevent unauthorized access to files stored on a computer may include several steps. One step involves maintaining a first database which identifies files stored on the computer to be included in a safe zone. Another step involves maintaining a second database which defines authorized accesses to the files within the safe zone. Yet another step involves providing the computer with a filter. Upon a request for access to a file stored on the computer, the filter accesses the first database and determines whether the file is within the safe zone. If the file is determined to be within the safe zone, the second database is accessed to determine whether the request to access the file has been authorized. If the request is determined to be unauthorized, access to the file is denied. If the request is determined to be authorized, access to the file is granted.

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